

Administrator's Update for 6/29/11
By Ray Sandrock, County Administrator

Our Charlotte County Economic Development Office has recently become a member the Suncoast Technology Forum. Kay Tracy, interim economic development director, will be serving on the board of directors. The Suncoast Technology Forum's focus is on accelerating the technology ecosystem in Sarasota, Manatee and now Charlotte counties. The Forum concentrates its efforts in support of technology professionals and their businesses across multiple business sectors. These efforts include attracting and retaining top industry talent and deeper collaboration with area schools and universities to develop the highly skilled workforce the area will need to support a growing high tech sector well into the future. The organization works in conjunction with Florida's High Tech Corridor, a technology rich region drawn together by its three research universities to grow high tech industry.

Solid waste wins award

Our solid waste management division is the recipient of the 2011 Bronze Collection Systems Excellence Award presented by the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA). This award is presented for achieving the highest accomplishments in solid waste management. SWANA is the leading professional association in the solid waste field, serving over 7,000 members in North America.

PIO assists EREC

This past spring a drill was held at our Emergency Operations Center (EOC), conducted by the Emergency Drill Evaluation Agency (EREC). EREC was impressed with the outstanding performance of our EOC Public Information Officer (PIO) and the PIO division and requested help from us with another drill. They paid all expenses for our EOC PIO to travel to West Palm Beach last week to assist in an evaluation of the Army Corps of Engineers.

Public input on LHAP

Public comment is invited on the Local Housing Assistance Plan (LHAP) by our human services department's housing division. The LHAP establishes the county's primary goals and objectives as related to meeting the housing needs of very low, low and moderate income households and to preserve or expand affordable housing in the community. The LHAP also prescribes the distribution of the county's State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) funding for local affordable housing projects. Public comment may be made in writing through July 12, 2011. A copy of the current LHAP with suggested changes is available on our website at www.CharlotteCountyFL.com.

Thank you, employees

In Charlotte County government, as with most organizations, "business as usual" has taken on a whole new meaning. Budgetary constraints, reductions in staff, and shifting priorities have provided an opportunity to rethink the way we must operate. As an organization, we continually strive to improve the quality of life for our citizens through positive customer interactions, a spirit of innovation, and true partnership.

The recent years have been challenging for our employees and their families with multiple layoff events and increasing workloads; yet our experienced employees tackled whatever was thrown their way with remarkable performance and a long list of accomplishments.

I am pleased to report, and brag a little, about the recent results from the 2010 Citizen Survey. Of those residents who had interacted with an employee in the previous 12 months, 80 percent gave high marks in the areas of knowledge, responsiveness, courteousness and overall impression. This is a positive increase of 11 percent from the 2007 Citizen Survey and above the ratings of other national and Florida communities. The results echo the strength of and satisfaction with our employee workforce. These past few years have been trying to say the least, yet our employees have risen to the occasion by providing the highest level of service and commitment to our citizens and to each other.

To view the “2010 Citizen Survey Results,” visit www.CharlotteCountyFL.com and click Publications on the left.

Finally, I would like to express great appreciation for our employees; the great work they do every day, their positive attitude, their patience and grace during this tumultuous period. The employees of Charlotte County serve as a positive example of what it takes to forge ahead even in the midst of this difficult climate.